

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

SUMMER 2009

## SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER MISUSE PREVENTION ACT

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For those of you who have sat through one of my Identity Theft presentations, you know how much I stress not carrying your social security number on your person and doing everything possible to protect it. At almost every presentation, I am asked the same question: those of you on MediCal or Medicaid, your social security **is** your identification number, so are you not supposed to carry your medical card?

In May, I had the pleasure of having breakfast with Senator Dianne Feinstein while I was in Washington, D.C.. I asked her this question, adding that as law enforcement we see identity theft

as a huge threat. We want to teach our residents how to protect their identity, yet the government is making the social security number more accessible.

She stated that she has co-authored a bill, S141 (Social Security Number Misuse Prevention Act) which would require Medicaid to change their use of social security numbers as identification numbers. It would also expand the criminal penalties for the misuse of social security numbers. Senator Feinstein stated that the bill met with opposition (actually only one Senator opposed, saying that social security numbers were already out there so it didn't

matter anymore!), but she asked her council on the Judiciary Committee to re-introduce the bill.

Since my meeting, I have received emails from Senator Feinstein's office that this bill will be re-introduced.

We will have to keep an eye on this and see what happens with it!

*Kirsten Rowe*

Crime Prevention Specialist



### WATCH YOUR PURSE WHILE YOU ARE SHOPPING!

Purses are being stolen from unmonitored shopping carts while victims shop. It only takes seconds to grab a purse out of a shopping cart while you are looking at something on the shelves. To help prevent this, don't leave your purse unattended. Also, be wary of "friendly" shoppers who are possibly distracting you from your purse.

## WATER SAFETY

Drowning is the **second leading cause** of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1 to 14 and the **leading cause** of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1 to 4. The majority of drownings and near-drownings occur in residential swimming pools and in open water sites. However, children can drown in as little as one inch of water. They can happen in a matter of seconds and typically occur when a child is left unattended or during a

brief lapse in supervision. *Most children who drown in swimming pools were last seen in the home, had been missing from sight for less than five minutes and were in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning.*

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, here are some tips to keeping your kids safe. Never leave a child unsupervised in or around water in the home. Empty all containers immediately

after use and store out of reach. Never leave a child unsupervised in or around a swimming pool or spa, even for a second. Learn CPR and keep rescue equipment poolside. Install four-sided isolation fencing, at least five feet high and equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates around a home pool or spa. Never prop open the gate to a pool barrier or leave toys in and around the pool.

## ASK DEPUTY NELSON...

### Deputy Nelson: Can I file a police report at Lake Forest City Hall?

Yes, you can. However, Lake Forest City Hall does not function as a full-service Police Station. Deputies or investigators are not assigned to City Hall waiting to take a "walk-in" report. For better service and convenience for you, I recommend you call the Orange County Sheriff's Department's Dispatch (949) 770-6011. Deputies will

respond to your residence, place of business, or any other place within the city you would like to meet deputies to discuss a police report.

The City of Lake Forest contracts with the Orange County Sheriff's Department for police services. The south county Sheriff's substation is located at 11 Journey in Aliso Viejo. However, the substation is also not set up to take police reports. If you are uncomfortable having a deputy

respond to your residence, you can go to any business within Lake Forest and call the dispatch number.

If you have any questions for a deputy, you can reach me at (949) 461-3545. I work Monday through Thursday from 5:30 am to 4:00 pm. Please call me and schedule an appointment so I can guarantee that I will be there.



Deputy Rich Nelson is the Administrative Deputy for Lake Forest Police Services. **To submit a question to Deputy Nelson, please email [crimeprevention@cl.lake-forest.ca.us](mailto:crimeprevention@cl.lake-forest.ca.us)**

## ROBBERY — TAKING SOMETHING BY FORCE OR FEAR

**The bad guys have a plan and so should you!** The risk of violent crime in Lake Forest is relatively low, but you can't predict the future or control criminal behavior. By changing your behavior, you can have an impact on whether or not you will be chosen by a violent criminal.

### *Creating a plan...*

- If confronted by a robber with or without a weapon, **the best plan is to cooperate.** *Victims who give a robber what they want generally escape injury.*
- **Surrender your valuables without talking.** Threats or pleading may only worsen the situation. Concentrate on remembering the suspect's description, which will help the police.
- **Focus on the robber's**

instructions and follow them completely.

- **Do not pursue or try to detain the robber.** Go to a safe location and call **9-1-1.**
- **Most robberies last seconds, not minutes.** You only have a few seconds to make the right choices. *Plan to survive.*

### *Prevention...*

- **Don't be an easy target.** Walk with confidence and make eye contact.
- **Always be aware of your surroundings.**
- **Trust your instincts.** If you feel uncomfortable about a person or a situation, don't be embarrassed. **GET OUT!**
- **Have your keys out prior to**

**going to your vehicle.**

- **Don't walk alone,** if possible.

### *Be a Good Witness...*

Being a good witness is important. Remain calm and try to get a look at the suspect without staring. Most robbers are males, however females also commit crimes.

Physical features are more important than clothing. Make sure that you take note of the following: color of hair, eyes and skin; facial features / hair; approximate age and height; scars, marks and tattoos; speech peculiarities or accents. If a vehicle is used, try to get the make, model, color and license plate. If you are able to safely do so, try to get the direction of travel of the suspect.

***Your belongings can be replaced...your life and well being cannot!***

A 19 year-old suspect thought that police in Los Angeles would recognize his distinctive clothing if he robbed a bank. So he stripped naked before his raid and made off with \$15,000 in two shopping bags. Not surprisingly, the sight of a naked man running down back alleys with bags stuffed full of cash was distinctive enough to attract the attention of sheriff's deputies, who pursued him over several fences before grabbing him and taking him into custody.

## FBI E-SCAM ALERT: SPEAR PHISHERS- ANGLING TO STEAL YOUR FINANCIAL INFO

**Phishing** is a virtual trap set by cyber thieves that uses official-looking e-mails to lure you to fake websites and trick you into revealing your personal information. It's also an example of an even more mischievous type of phishing known as "**spear phishing**" - a rising cyber threat that you need to know about.

Instead of casting out thousands of e-mails randomly hoping a few victims will bite, spear phishers target select groups of people with something in common: they work at the same company, bank at the same financial institution, attend the same college, order merchandise from the same website, etc. The e-mails are supposedly sent from organizations or indi-

viduals the potential victim would normally get e-mails from, making them even more deceptive.

### How spear phishing works.

First, criminals need some inside information on their targets to convince them the e-mails are legitimate. They often obtain it by hacking into an organization's computer network or sometimes by combing through other websites, blogs and other social networking sites.

Then, they send e-mails that look like the real thing to targeted victims, offering all sorts of urgent and legitimate-sounding explanations as to why they need your personal data.

Finally, the victims are asked to click on a link inside the e-

mail that takes them to a phony but realistic-looking website, where they are asked to provide passwords, account numbers, user IDs, access codes, PINs, etc.

### Criminal gain, your loss.

Once criminals have your personal data, they can access your bank account, use your credit cards, and create a whole new identity using your information.

**How to avoid becoming a spear phishing victim.** Law enforcement takes this kind of crime seriously. But what can you do to make sure you don't end up a victim in one of our cases?

- Keep in mind that most companies, banks, agencies, etc. don't request personal information via

e-mail. If in doubt, give them a call (but don't use the phone number contained in the e-mail—that's usually phony as well).

- Use a phishing filter. Many of the latest web browsers have them built in or offer them as plug-ins.
- Never follow a link to a secure site from an e-mail. Always enter the URL manually.
- Don't be fooled (especially today) by the latest scams. Visit the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) and "LooksTooGoodToBeTrue" websites for tips and information.

## HOW CAN I PROPERLY INSTALL MY CHILD'S SAFETY SEAT?

One of the most important jobs you have as a parent is keeping your child safe when riding in a vehicle. Proper use of child safety seats is an essential part of their safety. Unfortunately, 9 out of 10 seats are installed incorrectly.

The type of child safety seat your child needs depends on several factors including their height and weight, and the type of vehicle you have. Each and every child safety

seat and vehicle is different. Read and refer to the seat instructions, as well as your vehicle owner's manual, and always follow the recommendations.

Either the LATCH system or the lap/shoulder belt should be used to secure the seat in place. It is not necessary or recommended to use both systems together. The two duplicate the same function. The system that provides the tightest, most secure

installation for your seat and vehicle should be used. When properly installed, your child safety seat should not move more than an inch from side to side at the base.

If you're having difficulty installing your seat, Lake Forest Police Services offers free child safety seat inspections for residents of Lake Forest. To schedule an appointment, call Community Services Officer Aubrey Dietrich at (949) 461-3543.

**When was the last time you had a Neighborhood Watch meeting in your neighborhood?**  
To schedule one, call Kirsten Rowe at (949) 461-3546.

**CITY OF LAKE FOREST  
ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT**

**Kirsten Rowe, Crime Prevention Specialist**

25550 Commercentre Drive

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Lake Forest, CA 92630

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E-mail: [krowe@ci.lake-forest.ca.us](mailto:krowe@ci.lake-forest.ca.us)

**Important Phone Numbers:**

**Emergency:** **911**

Sheriff's Department Non Emergency: (949) 770-6011

City of Lake Forest: (949) 461-3400

Crime Prevention: (949) 461-3546

Graffiti Hotline: (949) 461-3583

OCSD Website: [www.ocsd.org](http://www.ocsd.org)

City of Lake Forest Website: [www.city-lakeforest.com](http://www.city-lakeforest.com)

Car Seat Installations: (949) 461-3543

Community Help Information 211

**Make Yourself a Hard Target!**



The City of Lake Forest, in partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's

Department, is

dedicated to helping our residents keep themselves, their families and their community safe. Our goal is to provide educational programs and training tools that enable residents and business owners to learn crime prevention strategies that reduce and deter crime.

**Vacation Checks:**

Remember, Lake Forest Police

Services offers **free** Vacation

Checks of your home. Go to the

city website at [www.city-lakeforest.com](http://www.city-lakeforest.com) to sign up for this

service or contact Kirsten Rowe

at (949) 461-3546 for more

information.

**INSIDE ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT : K-9 UNITS**

The Orange County Sheriff's Department has several four-footed partners on patrol in Orange County. Currently, canine partners assist seven patrol deputies in their duties. The canine units work regular patrol areas and are deployed on midnight and evening shifts. There are four canines in South County. The dogs are used for building / vehicle searches, locating lost or missing people, apprehension of criminal offenders and for "Officer Friendly" assignments.

Lake Forest Police Services' program of utilizing two Reserve

drug-detection K-9 teams to augment patrol deputies in enforcing of narcotic possession laws was implemented over 5 years ago. The use of the dog's keen sense of smell allows vehicles and buildings to be searched significantly faster than a manual search. Scientists estimate a canine's sense of smell is up to 1 million times more sensitive than humans! These K-9's are also used to search vast areas for evidence from crimes more quickly and efficiently than humans, which in turn saves man hours. Both of the K-9 teams handle routine

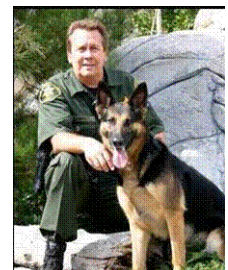
patrol calls when not on K-9 related calls.

Reserve Deputy S. Klappenback with his K-9 partner "Roan", along with Reserve Deputy J. Wharrie and his K-9 partner "Mona" have been assigned to the City of Lake Forest for the past 5 years. They have provided patrol and narcotics K-9 coverage every Friday and Saturday nights in Lake Forest.

In the past 5 years, these two Reserve teams have completed over 544 patrol shifts, which has saved the City over \$550,000 in patrol labor costs alone!



Deputy Klappenback & "Roan"



Deputy Wharrie & "Mona"

